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State accepts City SOC application

The State Environmental Management Commission voted today to accept a contract with the city that outlines efforts to improve the Northeast Interceptor (NEI) force main. The contract, called a Special Order of Consent (SOC), outlines repairs that must be done to the NEI before an ongoing moratorium can be lifted. The SOC stipulates that the city will face fines of \$1,000 a day if repairs aren't completed by June, 2008. The contract also outlines ways to help reduce the amount of wastewater flowing through the NEI while repairs are underway. The Commission made a few minor amendments to the contract, which the city must accept for the contract to be finalized. City Manager Sterling Cheatham says he will accept the amended contract as soon as he receives it.

All of the repairs outlined in the SOC are already underway, with construction expected to be completed by January, 2008. The projects have been fast tracked because of the ongoing moratorium on sewer extensions and the limit on new building permits. Following is a brief summary:

Greenville Loop Road

Description: Line almost one-half mile of pipe near Shinnwood Road, replace air release valves, and replace manholes at Hewlett's Creek pump station.
Cost: \$1.8 million
Construction: August-December, 2007

Hewlett's Creek pipe replacement

Description: Replace more than one mile of pipe that currently runs through Hewlett's Creek.
Cost: \$2 million
Construction: August, 2007-January, 2008

Pump Station Improvements

Description: Replace junction box at Bradley Creek pump station, and install interim pumps at both the Bradley Creek and Hewlett's Creek pump stations.
Cost: \$2.2 million
Construction: August-December, 2007

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